

CLAIM AMENDMENTS

Claims 1-16 (Cancelled).

17. (Currently Amended) A method of selling prescription contact lenses ~~using a system comprising~~

~~a first group information processing apparatus and located at a facility of a contact lens seller,~~

~~a plurality of second group information processing apparatus, each second group information processing apparatus being located at a respective facility of a contact lens prescriber, the plurality of second group information processing apparatus being connected through a communication network to the first group information processing apparatus, and~~

~~portable recording media for recording data and registration numbers, so that the first group information processing apparatus can determine an exchange time for exchanging a contact lens, based on date of issuance of the contact lens and characteristics of the contact lens, whereby information notifying a contact lens customer to whom a contact lens was issued of the exchange time of the contact lens, may be given at the exchange time, both the first group information processing apparatus and the plurality of second group information processing apparatus writing data on portable recording media, each recording medium being used by only one corresponding contact lens customer, said method comprising:~~

transferring contact lens customer identification, address, and diagnostic data pertaining to a respective contact lens customer from ~~said~~ a plurality of second group information processing apparatus located at respective facilities of contact lens prescribers, the plurality of second group information processing apparatus being connected through a communication network to a first group information processing apparatus located at a facility of a contact lens seller, to ~~said~~ the first group information processing apparatus through the communication network;

assigning a registration number to the customer and storing the registration number assigned in relationship with the customer identification and diagnostic data transferred to the contact lens seller;

providing the registration number assigned and selling agent data for a selling agent closest in geographical relation to the customer based on the contact lens customer

address data, from the contact lens seller to the contact lens customer, through the communication network;

delivering a contact lens from the selling agent to the contact lens customer; ~~and~~
transferring delivery data from the selling agent to the contact lens seller through the communication network;

writing, through both the first group information processing apparatus and the plurality of second group information processing apparatus, on respective portable recording media for each contact lens customer, data, including the corresponding registration number, and issuing the corresponding portable recording medium to the respective customer, so the contact lens customer can select any contact lens prescriber, and change between any contact lens prescriber, having access to one of the second group information processing apparatus and the communication network without changing the contact lens seller;

determining an exchange time for exchanging the contact lens, based upon date of issuance of the contact lens and characteristics of the contact lens, by the first group information processing apparatus of the contact lens seller, using data recorded on the portable recording medium of the corresponding contact lens customer to whom a contact lens has been issued by the contact lens seller through the selling agent; and

notifying a contact lens customer to whom a contact lens was issued of the exchange time.

18. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 17, including delivering notification of an approaching deadline to replace the contact lens from the contact lens seller to the contact lens customer through the communication network.

19. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 17, including offering new contact lenses to the contact lens customer in exchange for old contact lenses at irregular times, upon any of loss of transparency of the contact lenses, breakage of the contact lenses, and scratching or soiling of the contact lenses, and a monthly payment by the contact lens customer.

20. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 17, including periodically offering for sale contact lens care articles by the contact lens seller to the customer through the communication network.

21. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 19, including contracting for a one year term with the respective contact lens customer for supplying long-term-use contact lenses in exchange for the old contact lenses and the monthly payment.

22. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 20, including periodically offering for sale the contact lens care articles based upon a consumption period of the contact lens care articles and date of most recent sale of the contact lens care articles to the respective contact lens customer transmitted from the first group information processing apparatus.